

Homework

By Russell Hoban

MISSOURI ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

**Communication Arts
Practice Test**

Grade 4 – Poetry

Student's Name _____
(please print first name and last name)

Teacher's Name _____
(please print first name and last name)

School District _____

Building/Room _____

Date _____

Do not open test booklet until instructed to do so.

Homework

By Russell Hoban

Homework sits on top of Sunday, squashing Sunday flat.
Homework has the smell of Monday, homework's very fat.
Heavy books and piles of paper, answers I don't know.
Sunday evening's almost finished, now I'm going to go
Do my homework in the kitchen. Maybe just a snack,
Then I'll sit right down and start as soon as I run back
For some chocolate sandwich cookies. Then I'll really do
All that homework in a minute. First I'll see what new
Show they've got on television in the living room.
Everybody's laughing there, but misery and gloom
And a full refrigerator are where I am at.
I'll just have another sandwich. Homework's very fat.

Homework

1. What is the author's purpose for writing the poem? Use information from the poem to support your answer.

2. Based on the poem and on your personal experience with homework, predict whether the narrator will finish his homework on Sunday. Give two possible reasons why or why not.

Homework

3. Other than doing homework at school, give two ways that the author could solve his homework problems.

1. _____

2. _____

4. The sentence "Homework's very fat" appears twice in the poem. Do you agree with the poet that "Homework's very fat"?

Circle your answer.

Yes

No

Use information from the poem to explain what the author means by the phrase "Homework's very fat."

Homework

Alternate Constructed-Response Item

How is "Homework" a poem? Support your answer with two text-based reasons.

1. _____

2. _____

Homework

Circle the letter of the correct answer for questions 5 and 6.

5. Which did the author decide to eat as a snack?
- A. chocolate chip cookies
 - B. chocolate sandwich cookies
 - C. chocolate peanut butter cookies
 - D. chocolate vanilla cookies
6. When the poet says that homework is “squashing Sunday flat,” what does “squashing” mean?
- A. crushing
 - B. riding
 - C. moving
 - D. eating

Homework

7. Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

You will now have 45 minutes for your prewriting activities such as brainstorming, listing, outlining, and writing a rough draft. Use the pages in the test booklet labeled “prewriting” to record your ideas and your rough draft.

You will then have another 45 minutes in which to write your final paper. Use the pages in the test booklet labeled “final paper” to record your completed work.

You have read a poem about homework. Write a story about a chore or an activity that you do not enjoy, and explain why you do not like it.

Prewriting

Prewriting

[illegible]

Prewriting

[illegible]

Prewriting

[illegible]

Prewriting

[illegible]

Final Paper

[illegible]

Final Paper

[illegible]

Final Paper

[illegible]

Final Paper

[illegible]